

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 08359 221552Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 221455Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9696

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 8359

EXDIS

BEIRUT FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (BUTZ, EARL)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE'S PROPOSED VISIT TO CAIRO

REF: STATE 230737

1. IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT REFTTEL, I CALLED ON NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE MAHMOUD AHMED ABDEL AKHER TO INFORM HIM THAT SECRETARY BUTZ WILL BE AVAILABLE TO VISIT CAIRO BETWEEN NOVEMBER 9 AND 11 IF SUCH A VISIT IS AGREEABLE TO GOE. MINISTER WELCOMED SUCH A VISIT. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, HE HIMSELF WILL NOT BE IN CAIRO ON THOSE DATES. HE PLANS TO ATTEND THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME AND THEREAFTER HAS SEVERAL ITINERARY STOPS BEFORE RETURNING TO CAIRO. AKHER SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH SECRETARY BUTZ DURING THE PERIOD OF THE ROME CONFERENCE IF CONVENIENT. DESPITE HIS ABSENCE DURING SECRETARY BUTZ' SUBSEQUENT VISIT TO CAIRO, HE HAS ARRANGED FOR UNDER SECY SALAH TEWFIK AND COORDINATOR OF US ASSISTANCE DR. AHMED EFFAT TO HOST THE SECRETARY. AKHER SAID HE IS COUNTING ON "LOTS OF ASSISTANCE FROM SECRETARY BUTZ." (NOTE: EGYPTIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS MAY BE EXPECTED TO PRESS THE SECRETARY HARD FOR TANGIBLE US AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE. BY THEN REPORT OF UPCOMING SUB-COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION WILL BE AVAILABLE AND WILL BE USED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 08359 221552Z

AS SCORE FOR EGYPTIAN REQUESTS. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF SEC-

RETARY BUTZ COULD BRIEF HIMSELF ON RESULTS OF UPCOMING AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE TALKS AND BE PREPARED TO RESPOND AS POSITIVELY AS POSSIBLE.)

2. SINCE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE IS SECRETARY BUTZ' COUNTER-PART IN GOE, IT WAS NECESSARY MAKE INITIAL ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH HIM. HOWEVER, HE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH PL 480 MATTERS. THESE FALL INTO MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE MATBOULI'S BAILIWICK. MATBOULI IS NOT YET BACK FROM MOSCOW, BUT I SHALL GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM ASAP TO ARRANGE MEETING TO DISCUSS PL 480 FOR EGYPT AND TO EXCHANGE NOTES ON THE SUBJECT. ASSUME WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HERE IS PROMISED SECOND QUARTER PL 480 WHEAT ALLOCATION, AND THAT NECESSARY CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY WILL BE OBTAINED TO AUTHORIZE SECRETARY BUTZ TO SIGN EXCHANGE.

3. IN VIEW CRITICAL HOTEL ROOM SITUATION, WE NEED TO KNOW SONNEST PRECISE NUMBER AND TYPE OF ROOMS WANTED BY THE SECRETARY AND HIS PARTY. REQUEST DEPT'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING THIS INFORMATION WITHOUT DELAY.

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